

Site: M:26/10/61

The Dr. Willson Cottage

10 Thomas Street

Built: 1890

Private

This example of the vernacular cottage residence is noteworthy for its unaltered condition in comparison to its neighboring "twin". Both cottages were constructed as speculative ventures in 1890 in "R.T.Veirs' Addition to Rockville" by local educator Cooke Lockett.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. ^M26/10/61

Magi No. 1650772604

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Dr. Willson Cottage

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 10 Thomas Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Rockville

☐ vicinity of

congressional district 8

state Maryland

county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object**Ownership**☐ public
☒ private
☐ both**Public Acquisition**☐ in process
☐ being considered
☒ not applicable**Status**☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress**Accessible**☐ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☒ no**Present Use**☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Marguerite Fields

street & number 10 Thomas Street

telephone no.:

city, town Rockville

state and zip code

Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records 5846

liber

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse 498

folio

city, town Rockville

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places (1974)

date City of Rockville Historic District (1974) ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville

state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. ^M26/10/61

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

Check one

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This house faces west on Thomas Street and in plan matches its neighboring house. Several large trees shade the front; small shrubs are next to the house. A brick curb extends across the front property line.

The 2-1/2-story, gable-front-and-wing house with rear gable forms an "L"-shaped plan expanded to the rear. It is set on a fieldstone foundation, sheathed in German siding, and has a gable roof covered with asphalt. This vernacular cottage typical of the late 19th century appears to be virtually unaltered. The major exception being the recent loss of the tin roof.

The west (front) facade has two bays on the front-facing gable and one on the north wing. A one-story wooden porch covers the gable front and wraps around to meet the wing. The porch is supported by square wooden columns, covered with an asphalt roof, and built on brick piers. The gable front and wing have 2-over-2 sash, full-length windows in each bay with the exception of the center bay facade which has an exterior door with clear light transom. Each bay of the gable and wing second story has a 2-over-2 sash window. A single 12-over-2 sash window is centered in the gable pediment which has return gable eaves and Ionic capital cornice work. Wooden, louvered shutters and moulded lintels surround each window and the exterior door. A metal railing is attached to wide wooden steps that lead to the front door.

The three-bay north facade is dominated by a projecting center gable. Each bay, however, has a 2-over-2 sash window on each floor similar to those in the front. A 12-over-2 sash window is centered in the gable pediment that is highlighted with return gable eaves and two-story cornerboards with simple Doric capitals. There is an entrance to the basement from this facade.

The three bay east facade has 2-over-2 sash windows in each of the second-story bays and a 12-over-2 sash window in the new gable pediment. A one-story wooden porch with roof supported by wooden columns and brick piers wraps around the rear gable to connect to the main block of the house. Single 2-over-2 sash windows are in the first and second bays; an enclosed storage room with door and wainscoting occupies the north bay. All the windows are similar to the others in the house. the first floor has no shutters.

The three bay south facade has single 2-over-2 sash windows in each bay, each story. Wooden, louvered shutters and moulded lintels are similar to the others in the house. A brick and cement-covered chimney is located on the sloping roof.

8. Significance

Survey No. M.26/10/61

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

| Specific dates | 1890 | Builder/Architect |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: | <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D | |
| and/or | | |
| Applicable Exception: | <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G | |
| Level of Significance: | <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This vernacular cottage represents the speculative construction occurring in Rockville during the last decades of the 19th century. It is particularly notable for its architectural integrity.

History & Support

The house at #10 Thomas Street, along with its twin next door, was constructed in 1890 by noted Rockville educator Cooke Luckett. Luckett found the booming real estate market of Rockville's West End more lucrative than his previous career and purchased five lots in Rebecca T. Veirs' Addition to Rockville, subdividing them into eight. He mortgaged the Thomas Street lots in 1890, while houses were being constructed on them.

Cooke Luckett was able to quickly sell his new cottages in the West End of Rockville in 1890, 1/ encouraging the reluctant Town Commissioners to resolve that, "A Plank bridge be laid across the gutter on the south side of Montgomery Avenue from the street to the houses of Miss Waring and Mrs. Lamar, but such action shall not constitute an acceptance of the street laid out in front of the houses." 2/ Miss Lizzie Eades Waring had paid Luckett \$3,000 for the Victorian L-shaped cottage, also assuming a \$1,000 mortgage. 3/ Miss Waring was able to repay this obligation, but was forced to remortgage in 1891, and the widespread depression caused by the financial panic of 1893 forced default of her mortgage and a foreclosure sale in 1895. 4/ Advertisements for the Public Auction of the property included this description: 5/

Sale, Lot 11..front 105 feet on Thomas Street...improved by a very nice two story frame dwelling of 8 rooms with front porch across whole front and back porch. Fine well of water at back porch... very good stable and carriage house...faces Woodlawn Hotel...

M: 26/10/61

The Dr. Willson Cottage
Attachment 7.1

The Lyddane family, owners of the Derwood Flouring Mills, bought the property for only \$1,805; members of this family owned it for 17 years until its resale in 1912. Dr. Barrett P. Willson, a young dentist, paid \$3,000 for the house, 6/ and the Willson family occupied the property until 1962. That year it was purchased by Walter Fields. Marguerite Fields is the present owner, having a life estate under the Will of her husband. 7/

Neither the Willsons nor the Fields have altered the 1890 cottage, in contrast to the modernization of its twin next door at #16 Thomas (Site #M:26/10/32.)

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Sentinel reported the sale of the "new cottage and lot in the West End for \$3,000" in 1890.
2. Minutes of the Meeting of Town Commissioners, November 1890.
3. Montgomery County Land Records JA 21/349 (1890)
4. Montgomery County Judgment Records JA 10/210
5. Advertisement in the Montgomery County Advocate, April 1895
6. Land Records, 228/346 (1912)
7. Administration of Estate # 040-30-81 (1982)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. ^M26/10/61

Montgomery County Land, Plat, Equity and Tax Records
Montgomery County Sentinel, Advocate Newspapers
Cooke Lockett biography, Montgomery County Historical Society;

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property — 14,700 square feet

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 11 of R.T. Veirs' Addition to Rockville/Plat A/6; also being Lot A and north half of Lot B of Lockett's Partial Subdivision of Veirs'

Addition as per Plat A/7; fronting 105 feet on east side of Thomas St.
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne W. Cissel / Dwayne Jones, architectural descriptionorganization Peerless Rockville date March 1985street & number P.O. Box 4262 telephone 762-0096city or town Rockville state Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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Rockville

6/85

WEST FACADE

M: 26/10/61